Paul, Gary

WDSU Oswald ITEM footage 1/30/70

By prearrangement I saw this, as just supplied by Secret Service in response to my pressures, at 11 a.m. First Thomson told me we had to use the theater because the small machine was broken. I offered to be satisfied with a movieola, but he made no response. When I got to the projection room, they were showing "Birth of a Nation" (I caught some of the nice plugs for the KKK), and when last I saw that through the windows, they were hardly half through. It turned out there was nothing wrong with the small projector, and I saw the film labelled "original" on it. Timed it at about 40 seconds. This is by far the clearest I have seen. The copy they have made from it is not comparable.

Without side-by-side comparison, there can be no certainty in this comment, but I am pretty certain I see, in one short sequence, what is not in the other versions, but not knowing the people, I may be making a poor guess. I think Jack Lawrence, Nick Palmissano and Dolores Neeley are in it. I do not recall them from the existing copies, the one I saw in the Archives, the one WDSU has, the copy made from Johann Rush's.

Paul, when you can, it might be a good idea to phone Rush and ask him to look at his footage and tell you if he sees these people in it. He knows they were. He printed stills of them. He lunched with Neeley. Also, please ask him if he recalls what kind of film did he use, for example, reversal?

This very short reel does seem to ~~xxx~~ be the original of that short bit. It has a timing notch on it, the kind of mark made to alert those making copies to change exposure to balance the segments with different exposures.

The film itself had this note wrapped around it on a narrow strip of bond paper:

FILM of WDSU TV Channel 6, NBC Affiliate, New Orleans, Showing Oswald, Charles H. Steele, and unidentified subject passing out circulars 8/16/63 in New Orleans. The envelope said original, but that need not mean the original original. It is significant, however, that the SS legend specifies a third man in the operation.

I did not try to order this because even though they do this themselves, and the footage is so short it would be well within their minimum charge, I didn't have that little money and I am certain I'd first have to get WDSU's okay again. I think that presents no special problem.

This film also had only one set of sprocket holes. The copy made by the Archives for itself has two sets, one on each side.